



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
San Diego Public Library

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CONTACT: Marc Chery
619-236-5817

BI-RACIAL SOCIETY OF EARLY AMERICA DISCUSSION

One Book, One San Diego Event Features Noted Local History Professor Dr. Rick Kennedy

SAN DIEGO – The San Diego Central Library will host a presentation on the ***Bi-racial Society in Colonial America*** by Dr. Rick Kennedy, professor of history at Point Loma Nazarene University on **Wednesday, November 20 at 6:30 p.m.** in Room 563 of the new San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common, located at 330 Park Blvd in downtown San Diego. Professor Kennedy's presentation is in conjunction with the 2013 *One Book, One San Diego* reading campaign sponsored by KPBS and the San Diego Public Library. This year's *One Book* title is *Caleb's Crossing* by Pulitzer Prize winning author Geraldine Brooks.

Caleb's Crossing is the true story of the first American Indian to graduate from Harvard University. Set in 1660s Martha's Vineyard and narrated by the daughter of a Puritan minister, the story depicts the encounter of two very different cultures and lays bare the many gender inequities of the time. *Caleb's Crossing* fits in well with recent forms of missionary history because it focuses on the possibilities of open-minded engagement and blended cultures rather than "cultural imperialism" and heroic stubbornness. Main characters, Bethia and Caleb, embody the kind of interaction that is comparable to the stories of Squanto, Pocahontas, and the real figure of Iacoomis who appears in the novel.

Professor Kennedy will discuss the historical context of *Caleb's Crossing* focusing on the bi-racial praying towns and churches of New England, especially those of Martha's Vineyard. He is a professor of history at Point Loma Nazarene University. His books include *Aristotelian and Cartesian Logic at Harvard* (1995) and *Student Notebooks at Colonial Harvard: Manuscripts and Educational Practice, 1650-1740*, co-written with Thomas Knoles and Lucia Zaucha Knoles (2004). He is presently working on a biography of the colonial American pastor-scholar Cotton Mather to be published in 2014 and an edition of Cotton Mather's *Biblia Americana* to be published in 2017.

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[One Book, One San Diego](#) is a seven-year-old partnership between KPBS, San Diego Public Library, and San Diego County Library designed to bring the community together through a shared experience of reading and discussing the same book. Still more *One Book* events have been scheduled at the various City and County libraries. *One Book* is made possible by the Linden Root Dickinson Foundation, Lloyd Pest Control and the Cubic Corporation.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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